

credit information, e.g. on file with the quotation system, be used to effectuate automatically a credit purchase of the quoted product. Other alternatives include providing quotations to buyers via FTP or through interaction with the quotation system World Wide Web Internet site. As an alternative, communications between buyers and sellers may be by telephone, e-mail or other means.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2, 3, 18, 20, 21, 31 and 42 as per the following versions in which deletions are shown in brackets and additions are underlined and bold.

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2. (Amended) A method of utilizing a data network for advertising and selling items for sale by a seller including the steps of:

communicating, to [the] centralized filter means, from [said seller] **a plurality of sellers**, sale information indicating items offered for sale [and] **to** at least one class of buyers to receive sale information;

communicating, to the centralized filter means, from a potential buyer, a category of item in which said buyer is interested;

using said **centralized** filter means to match buyer and seller supplied information; **and**

communicating an offer for sale from said seller for at least one item in said category of items indicated, to a buyer if said buyer is within said class and said items are within said category.

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3. (Amended) A method for effectuating a purchase between a buyer and a seller selected from a plurality of sellers over a computer communications network, comprising the steps of:
- providing over said network a hypertext link containing page including information of [a] each of a plurality of [seller's] sellers' offers and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;
- displaying said hypertext link containing page to said buyer; and
- sending a purchase request by said buyer to said selected seller by clicking on said hypertext link

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Cont'd

18. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 17 wherein said purchase request is sent to said central processing unit.

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20. (Amended) A method of effectuating a purchase between a buyer and a seller over a computer communications network, comprising the steps of:
- providing credit information of said buyer to a [server] seller;
  - providing over said computer communications network, from [said] one or more sellers to said buyer, a hypertext link containing page including information of [a] each seller's offer and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;
  - displaying each said hypertext link containing page to said buyer;
  - selecting one of said one or more sellers;

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- C4  
Cont'd
- A4
- e. sending a purchase request by said buyer to the selected seller by clicking on said hypertext link; and
  - f. fulfilling said purchase upon receipt of said purchase request from said buyer.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said server is maintained by a central processing unit remotely accessible by said buyer and said [server] seller through said network.

31. (Amended) A computerized system for effectuating a purchase between a buyer and a seller selected from a plurality of potential sellers over a communications network, comprising:

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Cont'd

means for each of said plurality of potential sellers to provide a hypertext link containing page including information of at least one offer and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;

means for said seller to transmit said at least one hypertext link containing page to said buyer,

means for said buyer to receive and display said at least one hypertext link containing page; and

means for said buyer to click on a selected one of said at least one hypertext link to send a purchase request in response to said offer.

42. (Amended) A method of enabling a buyer to purchase an item over a communications network from a remote system, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a hypertext link indicative of a desire to [pace] **place** an electronic purchase order;

in response to said step of selecting, transmitting at least one electronic purchase order to a seller; and

in response to said step of transmitting, providing credit information of the buyer maintained at said remote system to complete the purchase of said item.

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C7